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TESTIMONIALS

OF THE

REVD. GEORGE WEIR, M.A.,

PROFESSOR OF CLASSICAL LITERATURE

IN

MORRIN COLLEGE, QUEBEC.



Quebec :

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TESTIMONIALS

OF THE

REVD. GEORGE WEIR, M.A.

[No. I.]

BOARD ROOM, COM. S. TRUSTEES,
KINGSTON, May 5th, 1865.

Dear Sir,—Having been obliged to resign your office of Local Superintendent of Common Schools under this Board, in consequence of your removal from the city, the Board of School Trustees cannot allow you to depart without expressing the high sense which they entertain of the talented, energetic, and efficient manner in which you have performed the duties of your office, during your four years' incumbency. Constant and indefatigable in your attention to the schools, you have encouraged the teachers in the discharge of their duties; while your kind and considerate manner always caused your instructions and advice to be received with pleasure by teachers and pupils. The Board can pay no higher compliment to you, than to ascribe to your able administration of the office of Local Superintendent, during the last four years, a large measure of the prosperity which the Common Schools of Kingston enjoy.

I beg to assure you that, in retiring from office, you carry with you the respect and esteem of the Chairman and members of the Board, not more for the talents and energy which you have manifested in the discharge of your official duties, than for your obliging manners and gentlemanly deportment in your intercourse with them; and that you bear with you

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their warmest wishes for your future welfare and prosperity.

In testimony whereof, the Board of Common School Trustees of the City of Kingston hereto affixes its Corporate Seal to this Certificate, by the hand of the Chairman of the Board, this fifth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

(Signed,)

WM. FORD, Jr.,

Chairman,

[S.S.]

B. C. S. T.

To the Reverend

GEORGE WEIR, M.A.,

Quebec.

[No. II.]

Mr. Weir was introduced to me in 1832, by the late Professor Menzies, of Edinburgh, Superintendent and Examiner of Schools under the Dick Bequest, as one of two whom he considered the ablest and most successful teachers in the North of Scotland. On his recommendation, he was appointed Professor of Classics in the University of Queen's College, Kingston, in which office I have had occasion to know, both while Principal, and as a Trustee of that Institution, that he amply justified the recommendation of Professor Menzies, and proved himself both an enthusiastic and judicious Teacher, preserving the most perfect order in his class, exciting diligence and emulation among his students, and attracting to himself their affectionate regard. I am of opinion that his removal from Queen's College was utterly without just cause or reason. Since he left Kingston, he has been Professor of Classics in Morrin College, Quebec, and has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, and my intercourse with him, both in Kingston and Quebec, has given me the most favourable impression of his excellent temper and amiable disposition.

I think he is not only an excellent scholar, but thoroughly conversant with the art of teaching, and that he is not only qualified to form correct judgments of the teaching of others, but also to suggest improved methods of teaching, where such

may be required ; and this I would confidently expect him to do in a way the least likely to give offence, and the most likely to secure their adoption.

I cannot, therefore, doubt that if appointed Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario, he will prove a most efficient public officer.

(Signed,)

JOHN COOK, D.D.,

Minister of St. Andrew's Church, and Principal
of Morrin College, Quebec.

Quebec, Dec. 9th, 1867.

[No. III.]

I have been intimately acquainted with the bearer, Mr. George Weir, since April, 1848, when he was appointed Parochial Schoolmaster of Turriff. In this situation he laboured with such distinguished success, that in August or September, 1850, he was appointed Rector of the Banff Academy. I have been frequently present at the examination of his school at Turriff, and have no hesitation in saying that the appearance made by his pupils, in every department, far exceeded anything of the kind I had ever witnessed in this part of the country. Independently of the great judgment, assiduity, and success with which he conducted the business of his school, I have had the best means of knowing that his acquirements as a classical scholar are most accurate and extensive ; that he was equally distinguished in every branch of study to which his attention was directed when at college, and that by subsequent reading, his general information is of the most varied and extensive character ; and combining his eminent talents, indomitable perseverance, sound judgment, and great literary acquirements, with his high religious principles and gentlemanly deportment, he appears in my estimation qualified to do honour to any educational institution in the kingdom.

Given at Manse of Alvah,

this 17th January, 1853, by

(Signed,)

AND. TODD,

Minister of Alvah.

[No. IV.]

Having been colleague, and in almost daily communication with Professor Weir for upwards of ten years, I have had constant opportunities of judging of his character, abilities, and attainments.

During the long period of my intimacy with him as a colleague, I always respected and esteemed him for his many excellent qualities; and nothing ever disturbed our friendly intercourse. He is, as is well known, a learned and accurate Classical Scholar, and I have heard him not unfrequently examine my own students in a manner which showed him to be well versed in mathematics, in which department, indeed, no less than in classics, he distinguished himself at the University of King's College, Aberdeen, from which he received his degree. As to his aptitude for teaching, his energy, fidelity, and success in the discharge of the duties which devolved upon him as Professor, were shown by the remarkable proficiency of his students, while his patience and kindly manners won their affectionate regard.

What, moreover, strongly convinces me of his special qualifications for the office of Inspector of our Public Schools, and Examiner in Classics and Mathematics, is the zealous interest which he has always manifested in everything relating to the education of youth, and the beneficial results which flowed to the Common Schools of Kingston from his tenure of the situation of their Superintendent. In this capacity he not only gained the respect and good will of the parents and pupils, but performed the duties of the office so entirely to the satisfaction of the Trustees, that, after he had accepted, at first only temporarily, the appointment of Professor of Classical Literature in Morrin College, they left the Superintendency open for him for nearly a year, in the hope that, if possible, they might again be enabled to have the benefit of his services, the great usefulness of which they had already experienced.

(Signed,) JAMES WILLIAMSON, LL.D.,
Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy,
University of Queen's College.

Kingston, Ontario, 9th. Sept., 1867.

[No. V.]

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY,
HALIFAX, 28th August, 1867.

It affords me much satisfaction to have an opportunity of expressing an opinion as to the fitness of the Rev. Professor Weir, A.M., for the office of Inspector of Schools in the Province of Ontario. I have been acquainted with Mr. Weir personally for many years, and was a fellow-Professor with him in Queen's College, Kingston, from 1857 to 1863. He has long been well and favourably known, both in Canada and Britain, as a distinguished Classical and Mathematical Scholar, perfectly familiar with the usual literary and scientific studies of a University course. During the latter years of my residence at Kingston, Professor Weir, in addition to his College duties, acted as Inspector of City Schools; and in that capacity not only gave great satisfaction to the Board of School Trustees (who re-elected him year after year), but likewise enjoyed the entire confidence and good-will of teachers, parents of pupils, and all who were interested in the advancement of Common School Education. I have been present at the examinations in the Public Schools on several occasions when the pupils were examined by Mr. Weir in Euclid, Algebra, &c.; and on such occasions, as well as in University Examinations, I have frequently admired the able way in which he brought out the merits of a student or discovered his defects. Mr. Weir is thoroughly acquainted with the educational systems of Canada and other countries, both as regards the Common Schools and the higher education of Universities; and whilst the graduates of Queen's College throughout the Dominion afford living evidence of his success as a classical teacher, I believe that he is equally fitted for the discharge of the important duties of Inspector of Schools. His vigorous and highly cultivated mind, regular business habits, and extensive experience in the management of Educational Institutions, are the grounds upon which I would recommend Professor Weir in the strongest manner to the attention of those officials with whom the appointment rests.

I know no one better qualified for the duties, or more likely to discharge them with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public.

(Signed,) **GEORGE LAWSON, Ph. D., LL.D.,**
Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy.

[No. VI.]

I have known Professor Weir for nearly thirteen years. He was a colleague of mine in the Senate of the University of Queen's College for eight years, during which time I had almost daily intercourse with him. I know well the manner in which he discharged the duties of the Chair as Professor of Classical Literature in Queen's College, and can assert, without any hesitation, that he has very few equals as a teacher.

Professor Weir was also Superintendent of Schools in the City of Kingston, and, from the manner in which he discharged the duties of that office, proved himself well qualified for the position. He was an excellent examiner in the different branches taught in our Common Schools.

(Signed,) **JOHN R. DICKSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,**
President Royal Col. Phy. and Surg.,
Kingston.
Kingston, Ontario, 5th Sept., 1867.

[No. VII.]

The Rev. Professor Weir having intimated to me his intention of offering himself as a candidate for the office of Inspector of Schools in the Province of Ontario, I have much pleasure in being able to bear testimony to his special qualifications for that important office.

I became acquainted with Mr. Weir at the University of Aberdeen, in which we were students at the same time. Mr. Weir was an eminent and much-respected student. In classics he held a first position throughout his curriculum, and

distinguished himself also—a thing not ordinarily done by classical scholars of the first rank—in the study of Mathematics. He thus laid the foundation of a wide range of attainments in science as well as literature, which I know, from intercourse with him after he left College, that he continued to improve.

The Parish Schoolmasters of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, are, as is well known, men usually of superior education and ability. Mr. Weir, having been appointed to the Parish School of Turriff, soon became conspicuous among them for his zeal and success in the work of Education, and was, partly, I believe, through the influence of the late Professor Menzies, one of the highest Educational authorities in Scotland, promoted to the Rectorship of the Banff Academy. This is an office which, whatever it may be now, was, among teachers at that time, one of proverbial difficulty. Mr. Weir so discharged the duties of that office, while he held it, that for long after he left Scotland, his regime was generally regarded as the Golden Age of that institution.

Of Mr. Weir's professional standing since, others can speak better than myself; I can only say that any students from Kingston that I have met, have spoken of Professor Weir with much affection and respect.

Considering Professor Weir's broad and well-balanced mental culture, his professional enthusiasm and success, and his administrative vigor and independence, I judge him eminently qualified for the office of Inspector of Schools; and I should think, too, that the patrons of the office in question will be fortunate above the common lot, if they find a candidate better able to fill it than Professor Weir.

(Signed,) CHARLES MACDONALD, M.A.,
Late Murray Lecturer, K.C.A.,
Professor of Mathematics,
Dalhousie College, Halifax.

August 31st, 1867.

[No. VIII.]

UNIVERSITY, ABERDEEN, 10th Sept., 1867.

I have pleasure in expressing a highly favourable opinion regarding the talents and scholarly qualifications of the Rev. Geo. Weir, who, I understand, is now a candidate for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario. Mr. Weir was well known to me as a most diligent and highly successful student during his course at this University, where, after a distinguished career, he graduated in March, 1848. Thereafter he filled various positions as a Classical Teacher in this country; and in all of these he evinced great diligence, and attained high success, resulting in his appointment to the Chair of Classical Literature in Queen's College, Kingston. From the extensive educational experience which he has since acquired, as well as the accurate and varied attainments which he then possessed, I am of opinion that he is likely to prove a faithful and efficient public servant in the highly responsible office for which he is a candidate.

(Signed,) WM. D. GEDDES, M.A.,
Professor of Greek.

[No. IX.]

FREE CHURCH TRAINING COLLEGE,
GLASGOW, 30th Aug., 1867.

I have much pleasure in bearing my most cordial testimony to the high literary attainments and accurate scholarship of my friend, the Rev. Geo. Weir. I knew him as a student, and then he was distinguished for his unceasing application to his studies, for his wide and extensive acquaintance with ancient and modern literature, and with science, and for the high place he took among his class-fellows. Since our student days, our paths have diverged, and my personal acquaintance with Mr. Weir has been limited. I know, however, that, in his visits to Europe, he has made himself thoroughly at home in all the great leading systems of education. Considering his attain-

ments, his character, his knowledge of education, both as a science and an art, and his enthusiasm in whatever he undertakes, I regard him as admirably qualified for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario.

(Signed,)

THOMAS MORRISON, M.A.,
Rector.

[No. X.]

GLASGOW ACADEMY, 14th Sept, 1867.

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the high qualification of Professor Weir for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario.

Being intimately acquainted with Mr. Weir for many years previously to his leaving this country, I had ample opportunities of observing his career as a student at college, and afterwards as a teacher of youth. At college, Mr. Weir stood in the foremost rank of students, carrying high honours in all branches of the curriculum, and securing the good opinion of his professors, and the esteem of his fellow-students. After leaving college, Mr. Weir held successively the offices of Parochial Schoolmaster of Turriff and Rector of the Banff Academy. The energy and ability with which Mr. Weir conducted these seminaries commanded universal admiration, and earned for him a reputation which, even at this distance of time, is not forgotten in the north of Scotland. Mr. Weir's distinction as a scholar and a teacher attracted the attention of the late Professor Menzies, of Edinburgh, and others of influence in educational matters; and by their recommendation, he was appointed to the Chair of Classical Literature in Queen's College, Kingston.

Of Mr. Weir's personal character, it is impossible to speak in too laudatory terms. Rarely, indeed, have I known a man so amiable and genial, and at the same time so true and upright.

In every view, I consider Mr. Weir well entitled to the highest rewards in the Educational profession.

(Signed,)

W. B. MOYES, M.A.,
Head Master Eng. Department.

[No. XI.]

ABERLOUR MANSE, 17th Sept., 1867.

The Rev. George Weir, Classical Professor in Morrin College, Quebec, was intimately known to me before he went to America ; and having learnt that he is a candidate for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario, I have much pleasure in giving my unreserved testimony to his especially high qualifications for the situation.

Professor Weir has naturally an acute and discriminating mind, and had the privilege of a first-class academical training, in which he greatly excelled ; and to his superior educational attainments he has now the advantage of a large and long experience in teaching.

I believe that few are so well skilled as Professor Weir in the theory and practice of the most approved systems of educating youth. It consists with my knowledge that on this account he stood high in the esteem of that excellent and advanced educationist, the late Professor Menzies, Inspector of the Dick Bequest Schools in the north of Scotland.

I know not one whom I could with more confidence recommend to the situation for which he is a candidate than Mr. George Weir. I believe that, with his rare mental equipments, he would also bring to the discharge of the important duties of the office a love and earnestness, a fervour and an energy, seldom to be met with.

(Signed,)

JAMES SELLAR, D.D.,
Minister of Aberlour.

[No. XII.]

I have very much pleasure in testifying to the high attain-

ments and rare natural abilities of my old class-fellow, Professor George Weir.

As a Classical Scholar, he always held a most distinguished place ; and in Philosophy, Science, and Literature, he was in advance of most of his fellows.

He has had large experience in the practical work of education, having taught with eminent success in all sorts of schools, from the Parish School up to the University.

It is now a good many years since Professor Weir and I have had to take our several ways, which have been widely severed ; but I will always look back with unmingled pleasure to the whole course of our college friendship. However it may be with him now, at college he never made an enemy ; and to know him was to be his friend. Kind, generous, honourable, an earnest student and a true man, eager in the race for honours, and proud of his success, yet free from any bitter feeling of envy in defeat, he was respected and loved by all fellow-students, many of whom, in widely severed homes and with various fortunes, will unfeignedly rejoice in his success.

(Signed,) D. MASSON, M.A., M.D.,
Minister of the Gaelic Church,
Edinburgh.

[No. XIII.]

I have known Professor Weir, late of Queen's College, for many years ; and it affords me great pleasure to be able to certify to his capabilities as a Teacher, while in that Institution. His kind and affable manners won the affections of his class and gained him many friends.

On several occasions I was present at the examination of classes by him in Classics and Mathematics ; and in this department (as examiner) he stands second to none. He also, while here, was appointed Local Superintendent of the

Common Schools ; and so highly was he appreciated, that the appointment was kept open for him for nearly a year after he left, in the hope that he might return.

Where he is known, he needs no testimonials, as he quickly makes his mark. Wishing him success in his undertakings, I cheerfully subscribe myself his friend and admirer.

(Signed,)

JOHN A. MULOCK,

Rector St. Paul's Church.

Kingston, Ontario,

September 2nd, 1867.

[No. XIV.]

THE MANSE, TYRIE, N.B.,

September 4th, 1867.

My dear Sir,—From various causes, I have often considerable hesitation in giving certificates to candidates for educational appointments ; but, apart from my ignorance of the peculiarity of the Grammar Schools of Ontario, I have no hesitation whatever in stating my firm conviction that you are eminently qualified for the office of Inspector. This conviction is founded upon a knowledge of your whole career in Scotland. I know that you were a distinguished student at the University—that your Rectorship of the Banff Academy was most successful—that you have always maintained an unblemished moral character, and always had a high reputation for scholarship, energy, and devotion to duty. It seems, indeed, as if your training and experience, no less than your talents and acquirements, specially fitted you for the office in question ; and I feel the utmost confidence that, if appointed to it, you will, in the discharge of its duties, exercise a most beneficial influence on the Grammar Schools of Ontario.

You are, of course, at liberty to make any use of this note that you please. My practical acquaintance with teaching, and experience in the superintendence and examination of

our Parochial Schools, may attach some weight to the expression of my opinion.

I am,
My dear sir,
Yours, very truly,
(Signed,) ALEX. MILNE.

Rev. Prof. WEIR,
Morrin College,
Quebec.

[No. XV.]

I hereby certify that I have known the Rev. George Weir, presently Classical Professor in Morrin College, Quebec, for many years; and I have much pleasure in bearing my humble testimony to his talents and acquirements as a scholar.

During his Academical course at the University of Aberdeen, he very highly distinguished himself, more particularly in the departments of Classical Literature and Mathematics. After finishing his College curriculum, he devoted himself to the work of teaching, in this country, with the greatest success; and I have reason to know that both as schoolmaster of Turriff, and afterwards as Rector of the Banff Academy, his services were highly valued; and his pupils were very successful in gaining prizes at the University.

His great success as an instructor of youth led to his appointment as one of the Professors in Queen's College, Canada; so that the whole of his life has been devoted to the art of teaching. There are few better acquainted with the practical knowledge of the subject, or more deserving of promotion. Nor are his qualifications solely of a practical kind. He is possessed of studious and thoughtful habits. His manners are good, and his intercourse with others is marked by amiability, intelligence, and self-respect.

With such qualifications, he is well entitled to professional promotion; and I earnestly hope that the high moral qualities

which he has displayed in the midst of many and trying difficulties, and his conscientious and intelligent labours, may be rewarded by success in his present application for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario.

Given at the Manse of Alves, N.B., this sixteenth day of September, 1867, by

(Signed,) JAMES MACKIE, LL.D.,
Min. of Alves.

[No. XVI.]

I knew Mr. George Weir very intimately before he left this country for Canada. I knew him first as a very faithful and successful teacher of the Parochial School of Turriff. I knew him better as the highly and deservedly respected Rector and Classical Master of the Banff Academy—one of the most famed of our Scottish Grammar Schools. I knew him, not only as a most distinguished teacher, intimately acquainted with the best methods of instruction; but as even then, in early youth, a ripe and good scholar, with an intimate knowledge and high appreciation of all that is best in Roman and Greek Literature. I knew him, moreover, a very diligent student. Above all, I knew him as a man of unblemished character, and, so far as I could judge, an earnest and sincere Christian.

Many years have passed away since then; but, unless his mature manhood has belied the promise of his youth, I feel sure that there are few men better qualified, intellectually and morally, to have the oversight of the Classical Schools of a country.

Given at the Manse of Fearn, this 16th Sept., 1867, by

(Signed,) AND. WATSON, A.M., Minister,
Formerly Head Master of
John Watson's Institution,
Edinburgh.

[No. XVII.]

QUEEN STREET, KINGSTON, C.W.,

September 1st, 1867.

I have had the pleasure and advantage of the acquaintance of the Rev. George Weir for several years, and hold him in much respect and consideration as a scholar and a gentleman.

Having always been interested in educational matters myself, I have had the greater satisfaction in conversation on such subjects with Mr. Weir, and also in knowing something of the results of his labours as a Professor of Classical learning and as an Inspector of Schools.

I have never met with any one who combined so much energy and enthusiasm in the profession with so much judgment and diligence—so much literary taste with so great patience in what may be called the drudge-work of elementary teaching. The constant and lively interest he evinces in all that is connected with the cultivation of the minds of the young, combined with his other talents, appear to me to mark him as one peculiarly qualified for the superintendence and inspection of educational institutions of every grade.

(Signed,)

JOSEPH ELWELL,

Minister of the C.A. Church, Kingston.

[No. XVIII.]

Professor George Weir was intimately known to me when, about fifteen years ago, he held the office of Rector of the Banff Grammar School.

In the private intercourse of life, I derived much pleasure from his society, and felt a high esteem for him as a gentleman of intelligence, piety and worth. I had, at the same time, the best means of forming a correct estimate of his merits in the discharge of his public duties, and have much pleasure in stating that these he uniformly discharged in a manner highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to the community.

At the annual examinations of the Banff Grammar School, the appearance made by the pupils in the Classical department—the department taught by the Rector—was invariably

such, during Mr. Weir's incumbency, as to leave no doubt in my mind of his high attainments as a scholar, and his zeal, faithfulness and ability as a teacher.

The enlarged experience which Professor Weir has had as a public teacher, since the period to which I refer, must greatly add to his qualifications for the important appointment to which he aspires ; and should he be successful in obtaining it, I feel assured that he will not disappoint the expectations of his patrons.

(Signed,) JAMES GRANT, Minis.
The Manse, Firdye, 6th Sept., 1867.

[No. XIX.]

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA, Sept. 2nd, 1867.

Professor Weir I have known for many years : during the greater part of his residence in Kingston, intimately. I am able, not only to bear witness to his worth as a Christian gentleman, whose trying circumstances while in this city only served to bring out the more clearly his integrity and moral courage, but to his ability as a public instructor.

With a peculiarly exact knowledge of English literature and language, he has thoroughly qualified himself as a Classical teacher. Not only is he thus well furnished for his profession, but he has the rare gift of throwing his own enthusiasm into his instructions, and of inspiring his students with a corresponding zeal.

As a Teacher, as a Superintendent, or as an Examiner, I regard him well qualified.

(Signed,) K. M. FENWICK,
Pastor of the Congl. Church, Kingston, and
Home Secy. of the Congl. Missionary Society of B.N.A.

[No. XX.]

ABERDEEN, April 2nd, 1867.

I was intimately acquainted with the Rev. Professor Weir

at the time he was Rector of the Banff Academy ; have seen him teaching and examining classes in his own class-room and in Miss Williamson's Ladies' Boarding School ; and have otherwise enjoyed opportunities of judging of his qualifications for any situation he may become a candidate for : and I have no hesitation in saying that I consider him highly qualified for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario. To an intimate knowledge of the structure and idiom of the English he adds an extensive and minute acquaintance with the Latin, can readily and happily render the Latin into English, and (what is of full as much importance in an Inspector of Grammar Schools,) the English into good idiomatic Latin. With the Greek, too, he is quite familiar ; indeed, from his College days Greek has been his favourite study. In teaching, his manner in general was enthusiastic, kind, and conciliatory ; his illustrations apt and easily understood ; while in examining, he seldom failed to elicit whatsoever information the class possessed. His character, moreover, was such, that I would rely with the utmost confidence on the perfect fairness of his reports.

(Signed,) JOHN MASSIE, A.M.,
 Chaplain of the Royal Infirmary Lunatic Asylum,
 Author of Latin Prose Composition,
 Editor of Wright's Eton Greek Grammar.

[No. XXI.]

BANFF CASTLE, BANFF (SCOTLAND),

7th Sept., 1867.

As Minister of Banff, I hereby certify that the Rev. George Weir, lately Professor in Queen's University, Kingston, was some years ago Rector of the Grammar School of this town. I thus had daily opportunity for not a few years to know how he discharged his duties ; and can confidently say that as a teacher both of the Classics and of Mathematics, he discharged them with distinguished ability and success.

Not only did his Classical pupils do him much honour, but some of his Mathematical pupils also attained, subsequently, high distinction at the University.

So far as I now have means of knowing, I have reason to believe that Mr. Weir is still as efficient, if not more so, in Mathematics and Classics. Besides scholarship and experience, he has many other qualities, such as energy, activity, mental and bodily, as well as enthusiasm, to make him a good Inspector of Schools ; and I shall be delighted to hear that he gains the appointment for which he is a candidate in the great country where he has for a time been labouring.

(Signed,)

R. BREMNER, LL.D.,

Minister of Banff.

P.S.—Of Mr. Weir's moral character and conduct, I deem it superfluous to say more than that they were, and, I have no doubt, are, in every way worthy of one who, I hope, may yet be a Minister of our Church.

(Signed,)

R. B.

[No. XXII.]

I was only personally intimate with the Rev. George Weir during the period of his attendance at College. He was one of the most accomplished students in his class, and distinguished himself in almost every department of study, but especially in Classics and Mathematics. I have had few opportunities of meeting him since he left College, but I know that when Rector of the Banff Academy, in a neighbouring county, he won for himself a very high reputation as an enthusiastic, skilful and successful teacher.

Given at Forres, this twenty-third day of Sept., 1867, by

(Signed,)

JAMES KEITH,

Minister of Forres.

[No. XXIII.]

KINGSTON, Sept. 4th, 1867.

While the Reverend Professor Weir occupied the Chair o

Classical Literature in Queen's College, and while he filled the office of Superintendent of Schools in this city, my duty as a resident clergyman, as well as friendly intimacy, placed us in such relation to each other that I had excellent and ample opportunity for observing and estimating his character and qualifications for the work entrusted to him.

And I can, as I do most cordially, testify to the great abilities, the tact, the urbanity, and the assiduous attention to duty, which characterize my friend, and made him the accomplished, faithful and successful Teacher and Manager I knew him to be.

(Signed,) PATRICK GRAY,
Minister of Chalmers' Church, Kingston.

[No. XXIV.]

QUEBEC, 4th November, 1867.

I have known Professor Weir intimately for several years, and it affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to his worth.

As a scholar, he would occupy a high position anywhere; and as a practical teacher, he has been eminently successful, both in this country and in Scotland.

Since he came to Quebec, he has given the highest satisfaction as Professor of Classics in Morrin College; and if he leaves that institution, I do not think it likely that a successor will be found in any respect equal to him.

I have come into close contact with Professor Weir, and believe him to be a man of sound religious principle, of correct moral habits, and of a character which will ensure the respect and confidence of those who know him best.

I understand he is a candidate for the situation of Inspector of Grammar Schools in Upper Canada; and I know of no other man whom I believe to be so well qualified, in every respect, for that important and responsible position.

(Signed,) W. B. CLARK,
Minister of Chalmers' Church, Quebec.

[No. XXV.]

FORDYCE ACADEMY,

Sept. 5th, 1867.

I have great pleasure in stating that I have been long acquainted with Professor Weir. His literary and scientific attainments are of a very high order. When Rector of the Banff Grammar School his teaching was most effective and successful. And when he examined the pupils of my Academy, which he frequently did at the request of the Magistrates of Banff, trustees of the Institution, I had abundant opportunities of seeing how well and ably he could perform this important duty.

I therefore consider Prof. Weir eminently qualified both by his acquirements and experience for the office to which he aspires.

(Signed,) JAMES LAGUE, A.M., Rector.

[No. XXVI.]

THE MANSE, ROTHES, N.B.,

16th November, 1867.

I have very great pleasure in bearing my testimony in favour of the Rev. George Weir, A.M., whom I have known very intimately from his childhood till now. By his natural abilities, which are of a very high order, and his great diligence as a student, he has ever maintained a distinguished place as a scholar, and while he has exhibited much proficiency in all the branches of learning he has particularly excelled in his knowledge of the Greek and Latin Classics, and of Mathematics. His scholarly attainments and aptitude for teaching recommended him so strongly to public notice, that he received appointments to more than one very important situation in this country, the duties of which he discharged with the highest credit to himself, and entire satisfaction to all concerned. His principles and character are quite unexceptionable; and I consider him in all respects very

highly qualified to fill any situation, where his talents and acquirements may have a proper field for their full exercise.

(Signed,) GEO. GRAY, Minister of Rothes.

[No. XXVII.]

THE MANSE, SALT SPRINGS,
PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA, Aug. 30th, 1867.

This is to certify that I was intimately acquainted with the Rev. George Weir, M. A., now Professor of Humanity in Quebec, during our collegiate course in King's College and University, Aberdeen, and that I had opportunity of tracing his subsequent career while he was in Scotland, and that during all this time Mr. Weir maintained an excellent moral character; was well known as a diligent and successful student in the classes, especially in the classics,—that he held an advanced place amongst a most distinguished class of students; that he proved a very energetic and acceptable teacher in Britain, and taking the testimony of many young men who studied under him in Queen's College, he was highly esteemed by these students, so that I feel confident that the Rev. Professor Weir would prove a most assiduous, faithful Inspector of Schools, should he obtain the situation. Indeed, I believe, it would be difficult in any country to find one in every respect so well qualified for the office, and one who would devote his whole energies to the faithful discharge of its onerous and responsible duties.

(Signed,) ALEXANDER MCKAY, M.A.,
Author of a Compendium of Church History, &c., &c.,
Pastor of the Salt Springs Congregation.

[No. XXVIII.]

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA,
Sept. 4th, 1867.

From my knowledge of the Revd. Professor Weir, M.A., for a number of years past, during his residence in Kingston,

I have pleasure in being able to testify to his manly and upright character ; generous and philanthropic disposition ; high intellectual powers, and distinguished ability as a teacher.

Having been a member of the Board of Common Schools for several years, previous to the time when Professor Weir occupied the office of Superintendent under it, but continuing to take a warm interest in the prosperity and advancement of these excellent Seminaries, I was delighted to find that in him they had such a competent, faithful, and affectionate overseer, who "won golden opinions" alike from members of the Board, teachers and pupils.

I know that under depressing and dangerous sickness, and family afflictions of no ordinary kind, he persevered at the hazard of his life in the punctual and painstaking discharge of his onerous duties.

I believe the learned Professor to be eminently qualified to fill with honor to himself and advantage to the public such an office as that of Inspector of Schools and Examiner in Classics and Mathematics.

(Signed,) JOHN NAIR, M.D., Edin.,
Staff Surgeon 1st Class, H.P.

[No. XXIX.]

I certify that I have had the pleasure and privilege of knowing the Rev. Professor George Weir for several years, and entertain the highest opinion of his character, disposition and attainments. His acquirements as a classical scholar, and his ability as a classical teacher, are of the foremost order ; his manners most pleasing and gentlemanly, and his piety earnest, unaffected and unobtrusive. I entertain the strongest confidence that Professor Weir will discharge the duties of any office which he may be called to hold with credit to himself and benefit to the community.

(Signed,) ALEX. BRANDER, D.D.,
Minister of Duffas.

Duffas, Elginshire, Scotland, Sept. 16th, 1867.

[No. XXX.]

ELGIN, 19th Sept., 1867.

I certify that the Rev. George Weir, whilst Rector of the Banff Academy, was known to me as a distinguished and enthusiastic instructor of youth ; that, with many others, I rejoiced when he was promoted to an honorable office in Canada ; that since that period he has visited his native country ; and that he conducted the services of the sanctuary here to a large congregation, consisting of persons learned and unlearned, and that his services elicited their unqualified approbation and admiration ; that, understanding he is a candidate for the Inspectorship of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario, I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that he is admirably qualified to sustain such a difficult and painstaking post, and that he possesses the learning, powers of thinking, and discretion requisite for such an undertaking.

(Signed,)

P. J. MACHIE,

One of the Ministers of the City and Parish of Elgin.

[No. XXXI.]

MANSE OF BIRNIE, BY ELGIN, SCOTLAND,

16th September, 1867.

Understanding that Mr. George Weir, at present Classical Professor in Morrin College, Quebec, is a candidate for the office of Inspector of Grammar Schools in the Province of Ontario, I have great pleasure in hereby certifying that in my opinion he is well qualified for such an important and responsible situation. Acquainted with Mr. Weir for several years before he went to reside in Canada, and meeting him afterwards in Scotland, I had ample opportunities of forming the above favourable opinion of his talents and attainments. His experience in teaching classics and mathematics at Turriff and Banff was extensive, and his success marked. I well know that he was highly esteemed as a teacher in the

latter place, and that his leaving the Academy there was much regretted by all who had the interests of education at heart.

(Signed,) **GEORGE GORDON, LL.D.,**
Minister of Birnie.

[No. XXXII.]

It affords me much pleasure to have this opportunity of bearing testimony to the high moral worth and brilliant literary attainments of the Revd. George Weir. Knowing Mr. Weir intimately for upwards of twenty years, studying together in the same classes, at the University of Aberdeen, for four years, and again during several sessions at the Divinity Hall, and meeting him frequently since, in social life, I have enjoyed the very best opportunities of forming a due estimate of his character—a character that, for honesty of purpose and true genial kindness of feeling, I have rarely seen surpassed. Of his college career, I may merely remark that it was eminently successful, from the time when, as a successful competitor, he entered the halls of our Alma Mater, until he left, decorated with her highest class-honours. Soon after leaving college, he was fortunate enough to gain by competition the Parish School of Turriff, in Aberdeenshire, and sometime afterwards the Grammar School of Banff, both of which situations he filled with honour to himself, and with marked benefit to the cause of education. It may not be out of place also to say that since his connection with Morrin College, Quebec, his unflagging zeal as a teacher, and his deep interest in those studying under his care, have won him golden opinions from all. From what I know, therefore, in regard to Professor Weir, I am of opinion that he is admirably qualified to prove a valuable acquisition to any of our Educational Institutions; and from the attention that I am aware he has devoted to the subject, I feel convinced that no one could be appointed to control the educational machinery of our country, who would bring to bear upon his work greater

natural ability, more earnest perseverance, or purer unselfish congeniality of disposition.

(Signed,) **DUNCAN ANDERSON, M.A.,**
Minister, Point Levi,
And one of the Trustees of Morrin College.
Point Levi, 18th Dec., 1867.

[No. XXXIII.]

I have known Professor George Weir, Preacher of the Gospel, in the Old and New Worlds, for over twenty years; and am, therefore, in a position to testify to his Christian worth, superior talents, literary attainments, and ministerial gifts. My first acquaintance with Professor Weir was when he studied at the University of Aberdeen, where he highly distinguished himself as a successful scholar, and where he merited and received prominent awards for diligence and ability.

In the various situations which he filled during the period of the prosecution of his collegiate course, he was equally fortunate. I lived within a few miles of him when he filled the office of Provincial Schoolmaster at Turriff, Aberdeenshire, and can conscientiously declare that he was as much respected by the parents and guardians of his pupils as beloved by his pupils themselves.

He was unanimously chosen by the Trustees of the Academy at Banff to become Rector of their High School; and he raised that institution from being in a collapsed state to one of proud pre-eminence as an educational institute in the north of Scotland, and made it alike famous for the discipline and the scholarship of its pupils.

During his residence in Canada, as Professor in Queen's College, Kingston, there is only one opinion held by the public in reference to his aptness as an instructor of youth, his scholarly attainments, and his success as a teacher. He has received various substantial testimonials, proving the

estimation in which he was held by pupils and others, while Classical Professor at Queen's College ; and even by those who, as I think, unjustly and groundlessly dismissed him from this situation, he was considered a ripe scholar and an admirable teacher.

His literary career has always been marked by great ability, conscientious discharge of duty, a frank Christian deportment, correct moral principles, and with a religiousness of conduct that has been unimpeachable.

At Hamilton, Ontario, this eighteenth day of December, 1867.

(Signed,)

ROBERT BURNET,

Clergyman.

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[No. XXXIV.]

[NOTE.—Instead of applying for testimonials of character and scholarship to any of my former students, many of whom are now filling important offices of trust throughout the Dominion and elsewhere, I beg to submit the following Addresses.—GEORGE WEIR.]

To the Reverend George Weir, A.M., Professor of Classical Literature in the University of Queen's College, Kingston, Canada West :—

Dear Sir,—We, the students and ex-students of the University, at this the close of another session, would avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded of giving expression to the sentiments we entertain towards you.

On reviewing the time that has elapsed since you first became connected with the University, it must be very gratifying to you to observe the rapid progress it has made during that period, from a state of comparative obscurity to its present flourishing condition. We do not stop to enumerate the various steps of its onward career ; but let us hope that its

steady progress in times past, and its present great prosperity, may prove but the prelude to a still brighter and more glorious future.

Permit us to congratulate you on the distinguished success that has attended your labours in the class-room ; to allude to the *constant kindness and courtesy* of *your* demeanour towards those under your care ; the deep solicitude you have ever evinced for their improvement ; the unwearied exertions you have always made to secure this object—in a word, to express the high place you hold in our esteem as a *professor*, a *scholar* and a *gentleman*. At the same time, we assure you that we highly appreciate your efforts for our advancement, and cordially reciprocate your kindness ; in token of which, we ask you to accept the accompanying watch and appendages.

We conclude by requesting you to convey to Mrs. Weir our kind regards, and by wishing that you may long be spared to enjoy much happiness in the bosom of your family, and continue to fill the high position you now occupy, as a member of this University, with your usual ability and success.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD CURRIE, B.A.,
On behalf of the Students and ex-Students.

University of Queen's College, Kingston,
April 19th, 1861.

[No. XXXV.]

To the Reverend George Weir, M.A., Professor of Classical Literature in Queen's University, Kingston :—

Reverend Sir,—We who have enjoyed the advantages of your instruction in the literature of ancient Greece and Rome during the past session, desire to accept the opportunity offered by the close of our labours, of expressing to you our admiration of the manner in which you have performed your professional duties, and our gratitude for the interest you have uniformly taken in our progress.

Although the labours which you had to undergo were of a tedious and irksome nature, and your health by no means good, yet you succeeded to a very great extent in infusing amongst the students of your classes that love of classical literature, and that enthusiasm in studying the productions of poets, historians, and philosophers of antiquity, without which all decided progress in scholarship is impossible.

Your conduct towards us, both in the class-room and elsewhere, has always been marked by a polite and gentlemanly character, and indicated to us not only your desire for our progress in scholarly attainments, but also your wish to promote our comfort and happiness in the other relations of life. As a small testimonial of our respect and esteem we request you to accept this volume of the poet Wordsworth along with that of Tennyson, trusting that you will find amongst our own classic authors as much real genius and refinement of thought as you have discovered in the celebrated writers of antiquity.

(Signed,)

ROBERT JARDINE,

Chairman.

Signed in behalf of the Students in Arts.

Queen's College, Kingston, April, 1863.

[No. XXXVI.]

To the Rev. George Weir, M.A.

Reverend and Dear Sir,—In consequence of your sudden and unexpected removal from the Professorship of Classical Literature in Queen's University, and the circumstances under which such removal has taken place, we, graduates and undergraduates of that institution, wish to express our deep regret at the termination of your connection therewith.

Eleven years ago, you left your native land and a position of trust, to undertake the arduous and important duties of Classical Professor of Queen's College, which you have fulfilled to the present with credit to yourself, the greatest advantage to your students, and to the honor of the institution.

Your ability and perseverance in the performance of your labours, your untiring interest in the welfare of those under your instruction, and your gentlemanly demeanour, have assisted to elevate the University to a high position, and have endeared you to us all.

On several previous occasions, the students have evinced their appreciation of your service by presenting to you testimonials; and the time which has since elapsed has served only to increase their regard.

All of us who have enjoyed the privilege of your private acquaintance, have found in you a sincere friend and warm counsellor. Though your connection with the institution, which has profited so much under your devoted talents and fostering care, has ceased, and the relation which has existed between us, as professor and students, has been severed, we shall continue to cherish towards you the same feelings of love and respect which we have ever felt; and in what position soever you may be placed, you will bear with you our earnest wishes for the welfare and happiness of yourself and family.

Kingston, C.W., 16th February, 1864.

Signed by over 100 Students.